

REMARKS

In the previously filed response dated January 9, 2004 to the Office Action dated October 9, 2003, applicants amended original independent claims 1 and 7 to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. Allowable claims 2-6 were amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-15 were also amended in formal respects to improve the wording thereof and bring them into better conformance with U.S. practice. A new abstract which more clearly reflects the invention to which the amended claims are directed was substituted for the original abstract.

By this supplemental response, the specification has been suitably revised to correct informalities, provide antecedent basis for the claim language, and bring it into better conformance with U.S. practice.

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, and in view of the amendments and arguments presented in the January 9, 2004 response, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable

reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

50 Broadway - 31st Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

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Debra Buonincontri

Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

January 26, 2004

Date